

# Legislative Update



## 2011



In 1993, Missouri enacted legislation to address several health care issues in Missouri. A major component of the legislation, section 191.411, requires the development of a plan to make health care more available and accessible to all Missouri residents. In response, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services established the Primary Care Resource Initiative for Missouri. Known as PRIMO, the program is designed to provide incentives to increase the number of primary care medical, dental, behavioral and nutritional health professionals and to improve health care delivery systems in areas of need within the state. PRIMO developed a pipeline approach providing incentives to encourage students from high school through graduate school to enter a health care profession. The program also addresses the needs of communities by building clinics to ensure professionals have a place in their community to practice once they have graduated.

*The four components of PRIMO include:*

- 1. Health Care Delivery Systems*
- 2. Recruitment/Placement*
- 3. Student Loans*
- 4. Health Professional Loan*

## PRIMO SFY11 Budget

Health Care Delivery	\$650,000.00	36.5%
Recruitment/Placement	\$105,000.00	5.9%
PRIMO Student Loans	\$1,025,000.00*	57.5%
State Loan Repayment	0.00	0%

\*PRIMO is funded through the Health Access Incentive Fund (HAIF). In SFY11, funding for HAIF was reduced. PRIMO student loans were made available through money donated by the Missouri Hospital Association and money that was repaid to the program.



# Improving Health Care Delivery

The program seeks to improve the delivery of health care by creating economically sustainable systems that provide high quality primary care involving medical, dental and behavioral health services. The services strive to prevent, treat and manage disease, injury and disability to benefit both the individual and the community. To assist in reaching this goal, PRIMO and its sister program, Access to Community Care Systems (ACCS), fund the expansion or creation of new community-based health care delivery systems. This includes working directly with various statewide organizations, communities, community health centers and academic institutions. These partnerships focus on one or more of the following:

- Health care decisions that are community and citizen driven and based on the best available evidence;
- Improving availability of and access to medical, dental, behavioral and public health services;
- Citizens and community stakeholders are informed about community health care needs and interact to sustain a high-quality health care system structure.

Many of these health care delivery systems are eligible employment sites for recipients of the PRIMO Student Loan Program, Missouri Professional and Practical Nursing Student Loan Program, State Loan Repayment

Program and the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program.

PRIMO/ACCS utilizes several Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and FQHC Look-a-Likes to provide health services. Missouri's health centers provide high-quality, affordable primary care and preventive services. Some centers also provide on-site dental, pharmaceutical, mental health and substance abuse services.

These FQHCs, also referred to as Community Health Centers, are local, non-profit, community-owned health care centers serving low- income and medically underserved communities. The providers in the centers care for all patients regardless of their ability to pay. Payment for services is determined by a sliding fee scale which is based on the patients' family income and size.

Health center costs for patient care rank among the lowest. Health centers reduce the need for more expensive in-patient and specialty care, saving taxpayers millions of dollars.

The table below demonstrates the increase in patient encounters at Community Health Centers where PRIMO/ACCS has invested some funding to assist in health care activities. The table also provides the percentage of patients using these health centers that meet or exceed the 200 percent federal poverty level guidelines.

<b>Community Health Center</b>	<b>FY 2010 Increase in Patient Encounters</b>	<b>FY 2011 Increase in Patient Encounters</b>	<b>Counties Served by Facility</b>	<b>% of Patients at or Below 200% Poverty</b>
Community Health Center of Central Missouri	164.77%	*22%	Cole and Osage	98%
Crider Health Center 36.42%	36.42%	48%	Franklin, Lincoln, St. Charles and Warren	97%
Fordland (FQHC Look-a-Like)	NA	7%	Webster	18%
Missouri Highlands Health Care, Inc.	18.75%	*7% decrease	Butler, Carter, Iron, Reynolds, Ripley and Shannon	95%
Salt River Community Health Center (FQHC Look-a-Like)	NA	28%	Marion, Ralls, Lewis, Clark, Shelby, Monroe and Scotland	4%
Swope Health Services	NA	9%	Clay, Jackson, Platte and Ray	97%

\*Decrease is potentially due to a reduction in PRIMO and other funds utilized by the Community Health Centers in FY10.

# Recruitment Placement Services

*PRIMO works with organizations to assist in recruitment and placement of health professionals in underserved Missouri communities through a variety of methods.*

Key barriers to recruiting and retaining primary care professionals include Missouri's aging health care workforce, fewer physicians choosing to practice in primary care and the state's population shifts. PRIMO works with organizations to assist in recruitment and placement of health professionals in underserved Missouri communities through a variety of methods.

State, private and academic partners continue to work together to address and identify specific needs across Missouri. Some of these organizations include: Missouri Area Health Education Centers (MAHEC), Missouri Primary Care Association (MPCA) and Missouri Hospital Association (MHA). All have been critical in addressing specific elements of the primary care workforce shortage. To facilitate early recruitment of students pursuing primary health care careers and establish clinical training opportunities in rural and underserved areas, MAHEC has established the AHEC Career Enhancement Scholars (ACES) Program. ACES offers three levels of one-on-one programs for students who wish to become primary care providers in one of Missouri's underserved counties.

PRIMO works with organizations to assist in recruitment and placement of health professionals in underserved Missouri communities through a variety of methods. One method is the use of the Practice Sites recruitment software to implement Missouri Provider Recruitment Services.

In collaboration with the MPCA, providers are recruited in the fields of primary medical, dental, behavioral and nutritional health for underserved areas of Missouri. This entails maintaining a database of providers interested in practicing in underserved areas of Missouri and also working with healthcare facilities to identify job opportunities. This service is unique to Missouri because it is available at

no cost. PRIMO scholars, as well as other health care professionals, work directly with a professional recruitment and placement manager to find the practice site that is best suited for the professional and the community. This free service is made possible through a PRIMO contract with the MPCA. However, fiscal year 2011 may be the final year this service is available at no charge.

The MHA contributes \$500,000 each year to the DHSS for the PRIMO program. This contribution in fiscal year 2011 supported the continued education of 13 residents, 13 medical students, three dental students and 12 undergraduate students. With the funding reduction for PRIMO in the state budget for fiscal year 2011, these students could not have continued to attend a higher education institution without this financial support received from MHA.





## Practice Sites Opportunities State Fiscal Year 2010-2011

Opportunity Specialty	State Fiscal Year 2010	State Fiscal Year 2011	Total
Family Practice	66	79	145
Internal Medicine	20	33	53
OB/GYN	10	11	21
Pediatrician	7	14	21
Advanced Practice Nurse	18	19	37
Physician Assistant	2	1	3
Dental Hygiene	2	1	3
Dentist	14	12	26
Psychiatry	6	11	17
Other Mental Health Professional	10	7	17
Hospitalist		7	7
Other Physician		9	9
<b>Totals</b>	155	204	359

## Practice Sites Placement Data State Fiscal Year 2010-2011

Opportunity Specialty	State Fiscal Year 2010	State Fiscal Year 2011	Total
Family Practice	4	3	7
Internal Medicine	3	2	5
OB/GYN	0		
Pediatrician	3		3
Advanced Practice Nurse	2	2	4
Physician Assistant	0		
Dental Hygiene	0	1	1
Dentist	7	10	17
Psychiatry	0		
Other Mental Health Professional	0		
<b>Totals</b>	19	18	37

# PRIMO Student Loans

The PRIMO Student Loan Program is a competitive state program that awards forgivable loans to students pursuing health care training leading to Missouri licensure or registration in the following fields:

- Primary Care Physician
- Dentist
- Dental Hygienist
- Psychiatrist
- Psychologist
- Licensed Clinical Social Worker
- Licensed Professional Counselor
- Dietitian/Nutritionist

Loan amounts are based on discipline and level of degree. They range from \$5,000 to \$20,000 per year.

Loans are repaid in two ways: PRIMO Student Loan recipients can either earn forgiveness for their loans or repay them with cash. To earn forgiveness, students are required to fulfill their obligation by providing primary health care services in a DHSS approved area of defined need upon completion of their training. The obligation is one year of qualified employment for each school year they receive a loan, with a minimum one-year obligation and a maximum five year commitment.

- A DHSS-approved area of defined need is a geographic area, facility or a population group that DHSS has determined is experiencing a shortage of primary health care providers or has inadequate access to health care providers. This includes those areas designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA). HPSA designations are determined in conjunction with data obtained from the Office of Primary Care and Rural Health and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).
- Primary Medical Health Care Services are defined as the actual hands-on provision of direct outpatient-based primary and preventive health care services by a licensed physician specializing in family practice, general practice, general internal medicine, general obstetrics/gynecology, or general pediatrics.

As indicated earlier, the Missouri Hospital Association (MHA) contributes \$500,000 annually for support of PRIMO students. MHA's continued support of PRIMO permitted the continued education for 13 residents, 13 medical students, three dental students and 12 undergraduate students.

## PRIMO Student Loans Fiscal Year 11

	Undergraduate	6 Yr Medical	Masters	Medical/ Dental	Residency	Total
Medical	12	3		28	16	59
Dental	5			8		13
Dental Hygiene	2					2
LPC			1			1
Dietitian	1					1
<b>Total</b>	20	3	1	36	16	76

# Health Professional Loan Repayment

The Health Professional Loan Repayment Program is the repayment of outstanding educational loans in exchange for providing primary health care services in areas of need in Missouri. A minimum two-year contract is required. The Department of Health and Senior Services provides loan repayment to registered and advanced practice nurses, primary care physicians, primary care dentists, psychiatrists, psychologists, licensed clinical social workers, licensed professional counselors and dietitians/nutritionists.

Maximum loan repayment amounts are:

- \$25,000 per year for primary care physicians, dentists, psychiatrists and psychologists;
- \$10,000 per year for primary care advanced practice nurses, licensed professional counselors and licensed clinical social workers; and,
- \$5,000 per year for primary care registered nurses and dietitians/nutritionists

In order to provide these funds to practicing health professionals, the Office of Primary Care and Rural Health applies for a State Loan Repayment Grant through the Federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). This grant requires a \$1 for \$1 match. In state fiscal year 2010, nine professionals were awarded educational debt assistance by utilizing funds from PRIMO as the required



match funds. However, due to the state budget reduction for PRIMO, funded through the Health Access Incentive Fund, no loans were provided for loan repayment applicants during state fiscal year 2011.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), signed into law February 17, 2009, provided funding to address health professional workforce shortages. Missouri was one of 18 states to receive financial support through ARRA (ARRA State Loan Repayment). Missouri utilized funding available through the PRIMO budget for the required non-federal match that had to be equal to federal funds from the HRSA. In state fiscal year 2010, this funding provided loan repayment financial assistance for 18 health care professionals.

Without the funding to meet the required \$1 for \$1 match in the ARRA State Loan Repayment Grant, PRIMO was not able to award additional loan repayment applicants for 2011. However, the Nurse Student Loan Program was able to provide match funds for three advanced nurse practitioners.

## ARRA Health Professional Loan Repayment

Recipients	SFY10	SFY11
Medical	4	
Dental	4	
LCSW	2	
LPC	2	
Nurses	6	3
<b>Total Scholars</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>3</b>

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